

Remarks

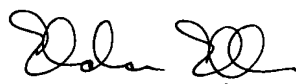
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-43 are pending in the application, with 30, 34 and 36 being the independent claims. Claims 1-29 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


For Jorge A. Goldstein
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,021


Eldora Ellison Floyd
Reg. No. 39,967

Date: June 18, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600